

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claims 3, 9, 15 and 21 have been amended for clarity.

The Examiner has finally rejected claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,324,338 to Wood et al. Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has allowed claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 20, 23 and 24.

The Wood et al. patent discloses a video data recorder with integrated channel guides, in which a processor 101 determines if there is sufficient room on the video storage 105 (disk) to record a desired program. If so, the program is recorded. If not, the processor 101 makes a determination as to whether there are recorded shows which may be removed. This determination may be based on whether the show selected for removal has a lower priority than the desired program.

The subject invention concerns the recording and managing of programs stored on, for example, a disk drive, in which a video memory manager detects whether there is sufficient room on the disk drive to store a desired video program. If so, the desired video program is recorded. If not, the video memory manager determines a first and a second retention score associated with a first and a second one of a plurality of video programs already stored on the

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disk drive. The memory manager then deletes the least desirable one of said first and second video programs.

Thus far, the subject invention is similar to that disclosed in Wood et al. However, in addition, as claimed in claim 3 (and claims 9, 15 and 21), the subject invention "compresses said least desirable video program prior to deleting said least desirable video program, and stores said compressed least desirable video program in place of said deleted least desirable video program."

The Examiner indicates that this feature of the subject invention is disclosed in Wood et al. at col. 3, lines 59-62 (the video compressor/decompressor 112).

Applicants submit that Wood et al. only discloses the existence of video compressor/decompressor 112, and indicates that it may be used for compressing and decompressing the video signals, and that the video signals may already be received in a compressed format and as such only the decompressor need be used. However, Applicants note that Wood et al. neither discloses or suggests that the least desirable video program should be compressed prior to being deleted, and the compressed least desirable video program should be stored in place of the deleted least desirable video program.

Applicants further submit that since Wood et al. neither discloses or suggests the selective compressing and storing of the

least desirable video program in place of the deleted least desirable video program, then surely Wood et al. neither discloses or suggest the further deletion of the compressed least desirable video program if it is determined that there is still insufficient room on the disk drive, as claimed in claim 4 (and claims 10, 16 and 22).


In the current Office Action, the Examiner notes that claims 3, 9, 15 and 21 do not recite the alleged limitations "the compressed least desirable video program should be stored in place of the deleted least desirable video program" as alleged by Applicants.

In reviewing Applicants' last Amendment, Applicants note that while the arguments therein included the above limitation, the amendments to the claims did not include the limitation. This was an oversight by Applicants for which Applicants apologize. The above amendments to claims 3, 9, 15 and 21 now include the missing limitation.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicant believes that this application, containing claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18 and 20-24, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by 
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